

Warrenton, Virginia Account Books

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1870-1882



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2017.028

Unit Date

1870-1882

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection contains three account books (one daybook and two ledgers) relating to an unidentified business consisting of a gristmill, a foundry, and a general mercantile in Warrenton, Virginia, during the late 19th century. Evidence within the volumes suggests that they may have belonged to William G. Douglass, a late-19th century Fauquier County foundryman.

Extent

0.4 Cubic Feet 1 box

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Warrenton, Virginia Account Books were acquired by the university in 1939 or 1940 and transferred to Special Collections and University Archives in 1955.

Processing Information

The processing and description of the Warrenton, Virginia Account Books commenced and was completed in August 2017. Initial description was completed in or prior to May 1970.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Warrenton, Virginia Account Books, Ms2017-028, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

The name "William G. Douglass" appears on several items inserted in the account books, suggesting that was the owner's name. In the 1870 census, William G. Douglass is documented as a 24-year-old foundryman living in the Fauquier County home of Charles C. Briggs, possibly a brother-in-law. The products of industry census, conducted that same year, lists William G. Douglass of Fauquier County as owner of a foundry, machine shop, and gristmill, employing a total of eight people. The 1880 census shows William G. Douglass, 30, living in the home of his sister, Jane E. Briggs. According to the census, Douglass is engaged in mining. In 1869, William G. Douglas of Warrenton was awarded a patent on an machine for separating cockle from wheat.

Scope and Content

This collection contains three account books (one daybook and two ledgers) relating to an unidentified business in Warrenton, Virginia, during the late 19th century. Transactions detailed in the individual entries suggest that the business consisted of a gristmill, foundry, and general mercantile store. Individual entries provide names of customers and employees, goods purchased, and transaction dates and amounts. In addition to goods sold, the ledgers also document goods purchased by the business as well as household expenses.

Keywords

Account books
Fauquier County (Va.)
Foundries
Gristmills

Appraisal

These account books were rebound by Roanoke Printing Company in 1942. Information that may have helped in further identifying the owner may have been lost in the process.

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Description of Subordinate Components

Daybook

Unit Date 1870

box 1

Container 1 (item)

Ledger

Unit Date 1870-1871

box 1

Container 2 (item)

Ledger

Unit Date 1881-1882

box 1

Container 3 (item)